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CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

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EASTERN EUROPE: Favorable Harvest Outlook

Grain production this year in Eastern Europe will total some 96 million tons, just shy of the record crop in 1978.
[REDACTED]

The harvest of winter grains, which accounts for about half of total grain production in Eastern Europe, probably will be near the average of recent years. Favorable growing conditions thus far for spring grains, mainly corn, portend an above-average crop. [REDACTED]

Despite prospects for a bumper harvest, the East European countries probably will import 15-16.5 million tons of grain in marketing year 1981/82. As in past years, Western countries--particularly the US--will supply most of that amount. The USSR, faced with a third consecutive harvest shortfall coupled with massive domestic requirements, will provide little or no assistance.
[REDACTED]

In Poland, Eastern Europe's largest producer of grain, the harvest outlook remains good. With favorable weather for the harvest, which has just begun, production is likely to be above average and well above the output last year of 18.3 million tons. [REDACTED]

Polish domestic requirements, however, will not be met. To cover human needs, maintain livestock herds, and rebuild grain stocks depleted by two successive bad harvests, Poland needs to import at least 7 million tons of grain in 1981/82. Serious financial problems will make it difficult for Warsaw to pay for the grain.
[REDACTED]

Approved for Release

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